

## CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:
  - a network interface for coupling to a network; and
  - a processor coupled with the network interface, in which the processor is adapted to:
    - establish a VoIP connection;
    - place the VoIP connection on hold;
    - detect whether there is return speech from the VoIP connection that has been placed on hold;
    - measure how long the detected return speech is sustained;
    - determine whether the detected return speech is sustained for at least a predetermined amount of time;
    - withhold transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection when the detected return speech is sustained for at least a predetermined amount of time; and
    - continue transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection when the detected return speech is not sustained for at least a predetermined amount of time.
2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, in which detecting is performed by interpreting a Voice Activation Detection (VAD) ON/OFF event.
3. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, in which the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and detecting is performed by:
  - monitoring the voice path for return packets; and
  - analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode speech.
4. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, wherein the predetermined period of time is equal to three seconds.

5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, in which the processor is further adapted to:

silence-monitor to determine whether prior detected return speech has discontinued; and if so, transmit on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection.

6. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, in which silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a Voice Activation Detection (VAD) ON/OFF event.

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, in which silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a received Silence Identification (SID) packet.

8. (Original) The device of claim 5, in which the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and silence-monitoring is performed by:

monitoring the voice path for return packets; and analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode silence.

9. (Original) The device of claim 8, in which analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to silence sustained for a predetermined time minimum.

10. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:

means for establishing a VoIP connection;

means for placing the VoIP connection on hold;

means for monitoring the VoIP connection that has been placed on hold to determine, according to a Silence Identification (SID) packet, whether there is return speech;

means for withholding transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection in response to the SID packet determination indicating that there is return speech; and

means for continuing transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection when the SID packet determination indicates that there is no return speech.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, in which the means for monitoring includes means for interpreting a Voice Activation Detection (VAD) ON/OFF event.
12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, in which the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and the means for monitoring includes means for analyzing to determine whether return packets encode speech.
13. (Original) The device of claim 12, in which the means for analyzing is for speech energy analyzes for speech sustained for a predetermined time minimum.
14. (Original) The device of claim 10, further comprising:  
means for silence-monitoring to determine whether prior return speech has discontinued; and  
if so, means for transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection.
15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, in which the means for silence-monitoring includes means for interpreting a Voice Activation Detection (VAD) ON/OFF event.
16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, in which the means for silence-monitoring includes means for interpreting a received Silence Identification (SID) packet.
17. (Original) The device of claim 14, in which the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and the means for silence-monitoring includes:  
means for monitoring the voice path for return packets; and  
means for analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode silence.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, in which  
the means for analyzing is for speech energy analyzes for speech sustained for a  
predetermined time minimum.

19. (Currently Amended) An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage  
medium having instructions stored thereon, in which when the instructions are executed by at  
least one device, they result in:

establishing a VoIP connection;  
placing the VoIP connection on hold;  
monitoring the VoIP that has been placed on hold to determine according to a Silence  
Identification (SID) packet, determining whether there is return speech from the VoIP  
connection that has been placed on hold; and  
if so, withholding transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection in  
response to the SID packet determination indicating that there is return speech; and[.]  
continuing transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection when the  
SID packet determination indicates that there is no return speech.

20. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 19, in which  
determining monitoring is performed by interpreting a Voice Activation Detection  
(VAD) ON/OFF event.

21. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 19, in which  
the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and  
determining monitoring is performed by:  
monitoring checking the voice path for return packets; and  
analyzing to determine analyzing whether the return packets encode speech.

22. (Original) The article of claim 21, in which  
analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to speech sustained for a  
predetermined time minimum.

23. (Original) The article of claim 19, in which the instructions further result in:  
silence-monitoring to determine whether prior return speech has discontinued; and  
if so, transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection.

24. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 23, in which silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a Voice Activation Detection (VAD) ON/OFF event.

25. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 23, in which silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a received Silence Identification (SID) packet.

26. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 23, in which the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and silence-monitoring is performed by:  
~~monitoring checking the voice path for return packets; and~~  
~~analyzing to determine analyzing whether the return packets encode silence.~~

27. (Original) The article of claim 26, in which analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to silence sustained for a predetermined time minimum.

28. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:  
establishing a VoIP connection;  
placing the VoIP connection on hold;  
detecting, according to a Silence Identification (SID) packet determination, whether there is return speech from the VoIP connection that has been placed on hold; and  
measuring how long the detected return speech is sustained;  
determining whether the detected return speech is sustained for at least a predetermined amount of time;  
withholding transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection in response to a determination that the detected return speech is sustained for at least a predetermined amount of time; and  
continuing transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection when the detected return speech is not sustained for at least a predetermined amount of time.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, in which detecting is performed by interpreting a Voice Activation Detection (VAD) ON/OFF event.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, in which the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and detecting is performed by: monitoring the voice path for return packets; and analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode speech.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, in which analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to speech sustained for a predetermined time minimum.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising: silence-monitoring to determine whether prior detected return speech has discontinued; and if so, transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, in which silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a Voice Activation Detection (VAD) ON/OFF event.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, in which silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a received Silence Identification (SID) packet.

35. (Original) The method of claim 32, in which the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and silence-monitoring is performed by: monitoring the voice path for return packets; and analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode silence.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, in which  
analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to silence sustained for a  
predetermined time minimum.